(b) and (c) Out of 228 delayed projects, 170 projects had cost overrun amounting to Rs. 29,992 crores on account of various factors including delay in implementation.

(d) The steps being taken to implement the projects within scheduled time and cost are given in Statement attached.

STATEMENT

Steps taken by the government to streamline for preparing the original estimates and implementation of projects for reducing overruns

(i) Two-stage project approval for facilitating adequate preparation, environmental and other clearances and infrastructure planning at stage I before a project is finally approved for implementation at stage II.

(ii) Proper monitoring of projects at regular intervals, at various levels to identify constraints and take remedial measures.

(iii) Indepth review of the progress by the project authorities and Administrative Ministries.

(iv) Setting up of Task force/Empowered Committees for speedy finalisation of contract packages, solving land acquisition and other problems.

(v) Close follow up by the concerned administrative Ministries and project authorities with the State Government, equipment suppliers, contractors, consultants and other concerned agencies to minimise delays.

(vi) Inter-ministerial coordination.

[Translation]

Transmission and Distribution of Power in Bihar

69. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state;

(a) whether any request has been made by Bihar State Electricity Board to Power Grid Corporation for an ambitious project of Transmission and Distribution of Power from Hathidehto Bengusarai zero mile and Purnia to Begusarai and Begusarai to Gorakhpur; and

(b) is so, the detail thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) and (b) : Bihar State Electricity Board have offered Hathideh Crossing (Hathideh to Begusarai zero mile) a State project for execution to POWERGRID.

POWERGRID has proposed establishment of 400/220 KV substation at Purnia where Bongaigaon-Malda transmission line will be looped in the looped out. The same work will be executed in next 3-4 years. POWERGRID has also proposed a 400 KV D/C line for interconnecting Purnia substation to Muzafarpur/Samastipur.

[English]

Funds for Health Care Facilities to Orissa

70. SHRI NAVEEN PATNAIK : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Orissa has submitted any scheme to the Union government during the last three years seeking Central or external assistance to provide adequate health care facilities in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to approve those schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) to (c) A revised project proposal estimated to cost about Rs. 400 crores received from the State Govt. of Orissa in Feb., 1997 was posed to the World Bank for assistance under the State Health System Development Project. A preparation Mission from the World Bank visited Orissa from November, 9-14, 1997 and has interacted with the State Health Department on various aspects including preparation of the final Project Implementation Plan (PIP), on the basis of which the project will be appraised.

Two proposals for JICA assistance have also been received (i) for providing equipment for Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel Shishu Bhawan, Cuttack and (ii) for upgradation of medical equipments for District Headquarters Hospitals in Orissa. These have been sent to the Ministry of Finance, Deptt. of Economic Affairs for posing to the Japanese authorities. While the latter proposal was posed to the Japanese authorities by the Deptt. of Economic Affairs on 19.3.97, in regard to the former proposal, the Deptt. of Economic Affairs have advised the State Govt. on 10.3.97 to send the proposal in the prescribed proforma.